

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY SIGNS BILL EASING SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR MILITARY KIDS *Interstate Compact Will Help Military Families Who Often Move From State To State*

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today signed into law Senate Bill 1541, “An act to enact the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.” The new law will make it easier for children of military parents, who change schools as their parents are moved from one assignment to another and state to state, to transfer academic credits and enroll in North Carolina schools.

“To really support the military you have to support the military families and especially the military children,” said Easley. “That is what this bill does. It is going to make life a little bit easier for those little ones who are about to take over and run this great country that we have built.”

The “Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children” was developed by the Council of State Governments and the Department of Defense along with education and military family experts. States signing onto the compact agree to work together to create uniform standards and forms for entering school, transferring records, course placement, graduation requirements, redundant or missed testing and other transitions. The compact also will eliminate rules that make it difficult for high school students to continue their participation in sports and other extracurricular activities.

The governor signed the bill during a ceremony at E.E. Miller Elementary School in Fayetteville. Several students assisted the governor in signing the bill into law.

The governor will appoint a commissioner to the compact who is a licensed North Carolina attorney representing a local board of education, preferably one with a high concentration of military children, or an attorney familiar with military issues. The State Board of Education will also establish a state council to include the Superintendent of Public Instruction, a superintendent of a local school system with a high concentration of military children, a representative from a military installation, a representative of the executive branch of government, a representative of the state School Boards Association, a representative of the state Association of School Administrators, a member appointed Senate President Pro Tempore and another named by the Speaker of the House.

The new law was introduced in the House by Representatives Margaret Highsmith Dickson (D-Cumberland), Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland), Grier Martin (D-Wake) and Alice Underhill (D-Craven, Pamlico). It was carried in the Senate by Sen. Tony Rand (D-Bladen, Cumberland). The law was